

Message Text

SECRET

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17/11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-20 USIA-06 IO-04 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 DRC-01 /077 W

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P R 120530Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 533

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

S E C R E T MUSCAT 622

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TTXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MU, IR, YS

SUBJECT: IRANIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM PRESENT POSITIONS
IN DHOFAR

REF: MUSCAT 615 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ZAWAWI CONVENED ALL CHIEFS
OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND LOCAL PRESS REPS AT MINISTRY
OCT. 10 TO READ SHORT STATEMENT COVERING IRANIAN TROOPS
IN DHOFAR. FULL TEXT OF MINISTRY'S ENGLISH TRANSLATION
IN PARA 3. STATEMENT ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL TO
IRAN OF IRANIAN TASK FORCE WHICH SINCE CLEARING REBELS

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FROM SALALAH-MIDWAY (THUMRAIT) ROAD LAST WINTER HAS BEEN

STATIONED AT POSITIONS ALONG THAT KEY SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATIONS LINK. IT PRAISES TASK FORCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO SAF ACTIONS AGAINST TERRORISTS, ANNOUNCES THAT OMANI FORCES ARE TAKING OVER ITS POSITIONS AND CASTIGATES AS PROPAGANDA PRESENT "CAMPAIGN MOTIVATED BY PDRY, SOVIETS AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES" AGAINST OMAN.

2. SOLE IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS FROM EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SALIM WHO TOLD MINISTER AND GROUP HE WAS SURE MANY PRESENT WELCOMED MINISTER'S STATEMENT BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN VARIOUS SPECULATION BY FRIENDS OF OMAN AS TO ROLE AND DURATION OF IRANIAN FORCES' STAY IN COUNTRY.

3. ZAWAWI'S TEXT:

QUOTE IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO MEET WITH YOU TODAY AND TO CLARIFY SOME FACTS AND MATTERS CONCERNING THE IRANIAN ARMED FORCES THAT HAVE BEEN OPERATING CLOSELY WITH THE OMANI ARMED FORCES AGAINST THE TERRORISTS. AN IRANIAN TASK FORCE WAS ENGAGED IN CERTAIN POSITIONS ON THE SALALAH-THUMRAIT ROAD IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE AND WAS OPERATING UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE SULTAN ARMED FORCES. THIS FORCE CONTRIBUTED EFFECTIVELY IN RAISING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE OMANI SOLDIER AND HIS TRAINING AND THUS PERFORMED THE DUTY ENTRUSTED TO THEM IN AN EXCELLENT MANNER. I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU THAT OMANI FORCES ARE NOW, AND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HAVE TAKEN OVER THOSE POSITIONS WHICH PREVIOUSLY WERE OCCUPIED BY THE IRANIAN FORCES WHO ARE NOW RETURNING TO THEIR COUNTRY. THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY CERTAIN MALICIOUS CIRCLES AND MOTIVATED BY SOUTHERN YEMEN, THE SOVIET UNION, AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IS ONLY A PART OF THE FALSE PROPAGANDA WHICH IS FABRICATED AGAINST THE SULTANATE AND AIMED AT HINDERING THE MARCH (FORWARD) WHICH THIS COUNTRY HAS BEGUN SERIOUSLY; AND TO PRECLUDE IT FROM CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY IN ARAB OR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. UNQUOTE
END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: WHILE OMANI PURPOSE SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR, OUR IMMEDIATE REACTION IS THAT STATEMENT WILL DO LITTLE GOOD AND
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COULD BACKFIRE AS NEXT FEW WEEKS UNFOLD. APPARENTLY OMANGOV AIMS TO DEFUSE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED EARLY OCTOBER BY PDRY AND FRIENDS WHICH FALSELY ALLEGES THAT SAF, IRANIANS AND BRITISH ARE CONDUCTING MAJOR LAND AND AIR ATTACK ON REBEL CENTERS. BY STATING THAT IRANIAN FORCES INDEED CAME TO ASSIST OMANI FORCES, BUT HAVING PERFORMED TASK IMMEDIATELY AT HAND ARE IN FACT IN PROCESS LEAVING FOR HOME RATHER THAN ATTACKING, OMAN HOPES TO DRAW ATTENTION TO INACCURACY OF

PDRY ALLEGATIONS. FACT IS, HOWEVER, THIS TACTIC COULD
BOOMERANG IN FEW WEEKS IF AND WHEN IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT A
NEW IRANIAN TASK FORCE IS ENTERING DHOFAR TO ASSIST OMAN'S
LONG-ANTICIPATED FALL OFFENSIVE IN PROVINCE'S WESTERN
REGION.
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